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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: July 10, 2001

Selena Whitaker-Paquet

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 48000.1002u  
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of **Daryl W. Hochman**

Group Art Unit: 1623

Application No. : 09/326,244

Filed : June 4, 1999

For : **METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR ASSESSING BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS USING OPTICAL DETECTION TECHNIQUES**

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir or Madam:

Transmitted herewith for filing are the following:

1. Amendment and Reply; and
2. Return receipt postcard confirming receipt of enclosed documents.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required in connection with the filing of these documents, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-3555. This sheet is filed in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann W. Speckman  
Registration No. 31,881

Date: July 10, 2001

**SPECKMAN LAW GROUP**



20601

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Examiner : Moran, M.

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY**

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir or Madam:

In response to the non-final rejection mailed April 4, 2001, please amend the subject application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

17. (Twice Amended) A method for identifying optical contrast enhancing agents useful for enhancing the sensitivity of optical detection of a biological material comprising:
- maintaining at least one sample population of the biological material in one of the following systems: a cell culture system; a tissue culture system; an organ culture system; and an intact organism;
  - exposing the at least one sample population to a candidate optical contrast enhancing agent;
  - acquiring test data relating to one or more optical properties of the sample population subsequent to exposure to the candidate optical contrast enhancing agent; and